red eye

Tuesday
JULY 5, 2016

★ FREE ★

A Chicago Tribune publication

A la code

MEET THE TEAM BEHIND AN IPAD GAME THAT WAS BORN IN CHICAGO, MOVED TO CALIFORNIA AND IS NOW TEACHING KIDS EVERYWHERE TO CODE *8-9*

'Can you not?': Airport edition *4*

'Peanut' Tillman <3 Panthers *6*

Hungry by the river? *10*

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

TWO FOR TUESDAY

Tallboy Taco
325 W. Huron St.
312-488-4917

The River North restaurant takes Taco Tuesday to the next level by offering a margarita and any two tacos for $10, with options including beer-battered crispy fish and 12-hour smoked brisket. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

COLLABORATIVE BEER

Links Taproom *1559 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-360-7692*

Try a 16-ounce pour of the new Hop Dust Torture West Coast-style pale ale ($6.50), which was created through a partnership between the Wicker Park bar and Revolution Brewing and will only be served at Links and the brewery's taproom. 11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.

3-DAY FORECAST

TUESDAY
81 68
Splendid

WEDNESDAY
87 73
Stormy

THURSDAY
81 72
Still stormy

DO

CLIPPER CABARET

The California Clipper
1002 N. California Ave. 773-384-2547

Catch burlesque, drag performances and variety acts from artists including Chris Harder, Foxy Tann and Red Bone at the monthly show, doubling this time as a fundraiser for local performer Parker Haines. 9 p.m. $10.

'THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND'

Victory Gardens Theater
2433 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-324-0377

A fundraiser for Affinity Community Services features a wine and appetizer reception, performance of the drama about a New Orleans family in the early 1800s and panel discussion. 6:30-10:30 p.m. $40. Tickets: **eventbrite.com**

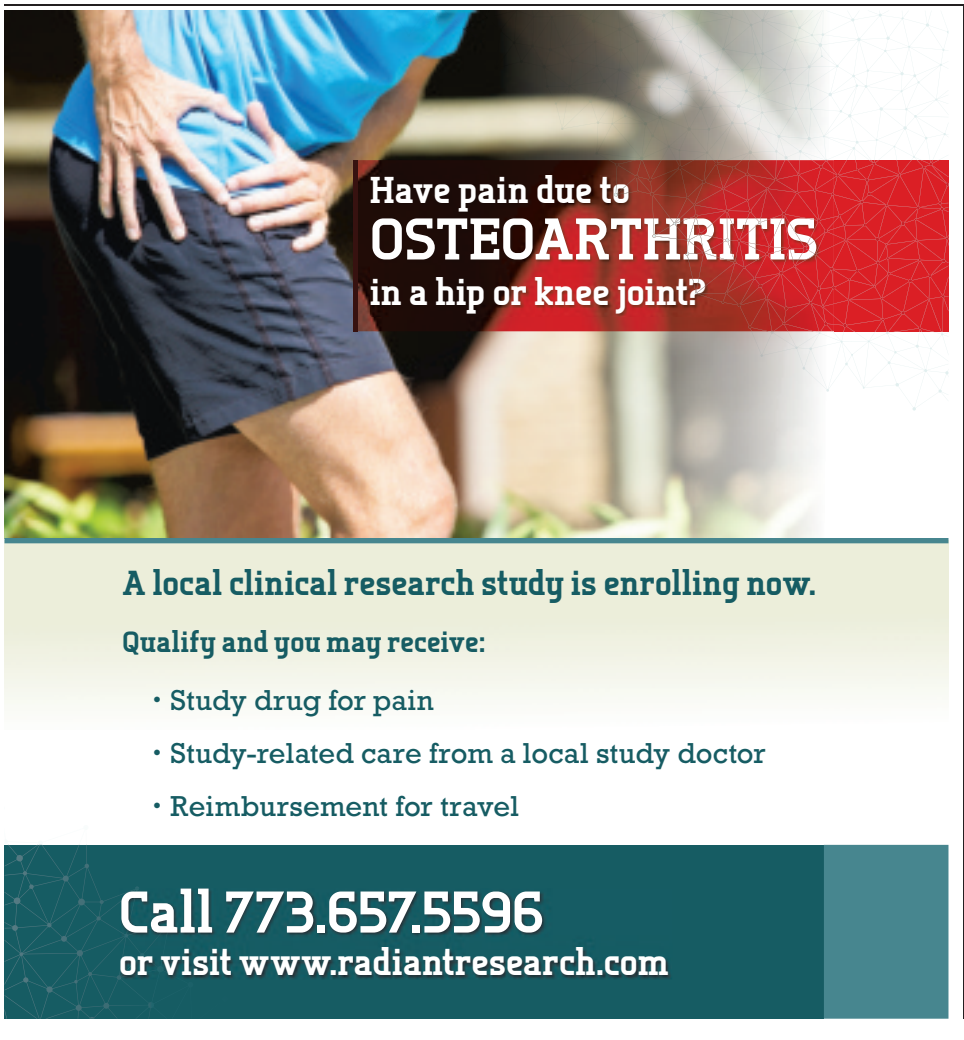
FREE

TUESDAY FUNK

Hopleaf *5148 N. Clark St. 773-334-9851*

The monthly live lit series features readings from "The Misadventures of Sulliver Pong" author Leland Cheuk, poet Hannah Gamble and Serving the Sentence co-producer Maggie Jenkins. 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 7 p.m. No cover.

HAPPY HOUR OF THE DAY Ocean Cut (20 W. Kinzie St. 312-280-8882) offers a flight of four drinks paired with four bites for $15 from 4-7 p.m.



Save the date

Eat, Drink, Do's weekly look at a month's worth of shows, tunes, foodie and boozy fun and more

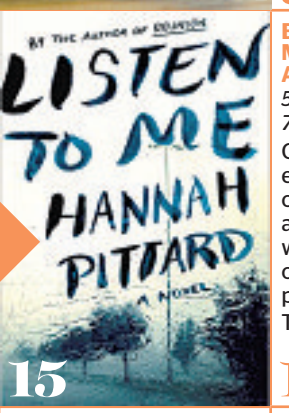
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MEATHEAD GOLDWYN AUTHOR TALK AND SIGNING AT READ IT & EAT *2142 N. Halsted St.* *773-661-6158* Goldwyn discusses his book, "Meathead: The Science of Great Barbecue and Grilling." Q-BBQ provides free sliders and coupons. 2-4 p.m. Free with purchase of book. Register: **readitandeatstore.com** 10	 11	12				
BBQ COOKOUT AT THE ANTHEM *1725 W. Division St.* *773-697-4804* Chefs Paul Samojluk and Joshua Gierczyk of Alder & Oak Smoke House provide a Mexican take on barbecue including pulled pork nachos and brisket tacos. DJ Ryan Ross provides music. 5 and 7:30 p.m. $40. Tickets: **eventbrite.com** 17	**LEZFEST IV: A ONE NIGHT FLING AT MARY'S ATTIC** *5400 N. Clark St.* *800-737-0984* Pride Films and Plays' show features music, storytelling, spoken word, movement and stand-up comedy from lesbian and gender-queer performers including Lauren Sivak (left). 7 p.m. $10-$12. Tickets: **pridefilmsandplays.com** 18	 19	**VEGAN DINNER AT LOCAL FOODS** *1427 W. Willow St.* *312-432-6575* Chefs from HandCut Foods prepare a three-course dinner with pairings from JuiceRx to benefit Purple Asparagus. Add a glass of vegan wine for $10. 6:30-9:30 p.m. $65. Tickets: **eventbrite.com** 20	21	22	23
24	25	**AMY ROSE SPIEGEL READING AT WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST** *5233 N. Clark St.* *773-769-9299* The freelance writer and editor answers questions and signs copies of her debut book, "Action: A Book About Sex," which addresses protection, consent, gender and sexual trauma. 7 p.m. Free. 26	 27	**OUT AND PROUD! AT DAVENPORT'S** *1383 N. Milwaukee Ave.* *773-278-1830* Vocalist Melissa Young presents a tour of the gay rights movement through song and comedy. 8-9 p.m. $20 plus a two-drink minimum. RSVP: **reservations.davenportspianobar.com** 28	 29	**HARI KONDABOLU AT THE HIDEOUT** *1354 W. Wabansia Ave.* *773-227-4433* The Brooklyn, N.Y.-based comedian argues that race, gender and politics should be discussed in mainstream comedy. 7 and 10 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. $15. Tickets: **hideoutchicago.com** 30

Head back to Page 2 for today's Eat. Drink. Do. events.

FRIED CHICKEN DAY AT HONEY BUTTER FRIED CHICKEN
3361 N. Elston Ave.
773-478-4000
The Avondale restaurant celebrates by offering an eight-piece bucket of fried chicken with five corn muffins, honey butter and a bucket of Miller High Life for $40. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE FILE

HANNAH PITTARD IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVE WELCH AT THE BOOK CELLAR
4736 N. Lincoln Ave.
773-293-2665
Pittard discusses her latest novel, "Listen to Me," and her writing process with the DePaul University professor and poet. 7 p.m. Free.



BRICK BASH AT MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY
5700 S. Lake Shore Drive
773-684-1414
Check out the museum's exhibits and build your own sliders and cocktails at this adults-only bash, which features a recording of the "General Admission" podcast. 7-10 p.m. $30. Tickets: **wbez.org/events**

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Don't be a nightmare when traveling by air

TRANSIT DIARIES

Rianne Coale
» rcoale@redeyechicago.com
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A trip to the airport can be the bane of anyone's existence. Between the long security lines, the frustrating boarding process, the insufferable baggage claim and the lot, the last thing you need is dopes effing up your already-stressful day of travel. So, I present Airport Etiquette 101: Five sins to avoid committing before, during and after a flight.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A HORRIBLE PASSENGER IF YOU ...

... are completely unprepared for security: After waiting in line for a freakin' hour, you'd think people would be a little better prepared to pass through security. Nope. (*face-palm*)

News flash: If you're not ready to slip off your shoes, stick your carry-on into a bin and swiftly walk through the metal detector, then a line of people behind you will suffer.

"The most common mistake passengers make, in general, is having oversized liquids in their bags," TSA spokesman Michael McCarthy said. "Having prohibited items in your bag will slow you down and the people in line behind you. If you're waiting in line, that's a great time to get ready. The faster you go through the security checkpoint, the faster everyone behind you goes."

... crowd the baggage claim area: I guarantee that staring hopefully at the opening of the luggage carousel while leaning against the fixture and blocking everyone's view will not make your bag come any faster.

Here's an idea! Why not take a few steps back (or five) so we can all see the beat-up luggage comin' round?

... take off your shoes and you've got bare feet: First of all, gross. Second of all, if you're the type of person who plops down into your seat on a plane and immediately takes your shoes off to reveal nothing but sweaty, naked feet, you are the actual worst. (Thanks for this observation, Brett Snyder.)

Want to take your shoes off on a plane? Fine. But you had better be wearing a cushiony pair of socks to absorb all that nasty foot juice you've been secreting while navigating the airport. You're in a confined space with more than 100 other people, and no one has time for semi-moist feet stinking up the air we'll be sharing the entire flight.

... eat stinky food on the plane: And while we're talking about stench ... DO NOT BRING SMELLY-ASS FOOD on an airplane! Just don't. Enjoy your tuna fish or curry or sauerkraut or garlicky grossness elsewhere—preferably far, far away from the tight confines of an aircraft.

It's not even the fact that you're eating on a plane. It's that you're aware you're dropping an odor bomb and you're doing it anyway.

"Yes, by all means, make the whole plane smell like a rotting dumpster," said no one ever.

... carry on too many bags/one giant bag: When you're trying to pack a buttload of people and all their crap into a relatively tiny space, it's bound to get a little smooshed. But when you board with a clearly oversized carry-on bag or multiple pieces of luggage, it's like, how the hell did you make it this far? Did you somehow miss the memo about the aircraft's permitted allowance of baggage?

You're not fooling anyone. That 40-pound bag of yours is not going to fit under the seat in front of you. And I saw that suitcase you tried to squish into the overhead compartment. Now my stuff can't fit because of your large horde of junk from which you couldn't separate yourself for a few hours. *eye-roll*

THE TRANSIT DIARIES RUNS IN REDEYE'S PRINT EDITION EVERY TUESDAY ON PAGE 4. IF YOU HAVE A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE, EMAIL US AT REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM WITH "TRANSIT DIARIES" IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

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sports

Charles 'Peanut' Tillman
CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE FILE

CAM-DO ATTITUDE

SORRY, BEARS FANS, BUT CHARLES TILLMAN IS ALL IN ON THE PANTHERS NOW

By Paul M. Banks | FOR REDEYE

Charles Tillman played 12 seasons with the Bears, but he didn't have an NFL MVP as a teammate until his 13th.

"Peanut," as Bears fans affectionately call him, spent last season with the 17-win Carolina Panthers and practiced daily against quarterback Cam Newton, who had one of the more dominant seasons in recent history.

Newton threw for 3,837 yards and 35 touchdowns, leading Carolina to Super Bowl 50. He also added 10 TDs and 636 yards on the ground. Tillman discussed the benefits of scrimmaging against Newton regularly.

"It makes you better, we make him better, he made us better," Tillman told RedEye. "I feel lucky to have been on a team with an MVP. You see it all the time from the New England Patriots, from Tom Brady to Peyton Manning to Aaron Rodgers; I can say I played with him and I went against the best every day and it made me better."

Tillman said he did not see Newton's transcendent season coming, but he does believe the MVP can maintain that excellence.

"The funny thing about talent and competition is, you don't know about it until you do it," Tillman said. "We all have our moments where we shine and we're hitting on all cylinders, and I think you saw in that 2015 season that Cam was hitting on all cylinders. He's already set the bar and he definitely has the talent and physical stature to do it, the rest is up to him."

Newton is one of the many reasons the Panthers are the only team Tillman wishes to play for in 2016.

"There's 53 reasons, every man on that roster, it's the front office, it's the secretaries, the cafeteria, the equipment managers," he said. "I'll tell you it's a first-class organization from the front office to your cooks. It's really a place that I think a lot of players really want to be."

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>
> —Ex-Bear **Charles Tillman**, now with Carolina

Tillman suffered a torn ACL in Carolina's regular-season finale and missed the Super Bowl run. The 35-year-old has said that he's probably two months away from being able to contribute, thus his potential 14th NFL season wouldn't begin until the end of training camp.

He returns to Chicago on July 14 to host his annual Charles Tillman Celebrity Pro BOWLer Tournament at Kings Bowl in Lincoln Park (1500 N. Clybourn Ave.). In addition to Tillman, participants will include former Bears Jerry Azumah, Rashied Davis, Matt Forte, Johnny Knox, Jason McKie and Nick Roach.

Cleveland quarterback Robert Griffin III and local TV host Jarrett Payton also will bowl at the event, which supports Tillman's Cornerstone Foundation. The effort provides resources to children in need and their families. Tickets are $100 and include tournament entry and food.

"If you don't want to bowl, you can just come to the event, play games, drink, eat, play pool, air hockey ... there will be tons of prizes," Tillman said.

PAUL M. BANKS IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @PAULMBANKS

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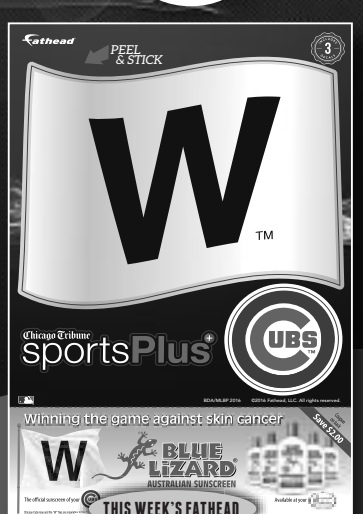

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Strawbies co-creator Ariel Zekelman

BLOCK PARTY

3 YOUNG INNOVATORS + CHICAGO = A KIDS' CODING GAME USED IN 15,000 SCHOOLS

By Shelbie Lynn Bostedt | REDEYE

We've all seen that inspirational Facebook meme: "At 23, JK Rowling was broke. Tina Fey was working at the YMCA. Oprah had just gotten fired from her first job as a TV reporter and Walt Disney had declared bankruptcy."

Until late last year, Ariel Zekelman and Felix Hu fit the mould of the struggling 23(ish)-year-old. But now, Zekelman, 23, and Hu, 25, are living in Silicon Valley after successfully launching a coding game for kids.

Zekelman, a recent graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and Hu, a 2014 Northwestern graduate, are two of the co-creators of Osmo Coding, otherwise known as Strawbies, a game that uses tangible building blocks to help children learn the foundations of coding logic. The two met in a collaborative course offered jointly through Northwestern's Segal Design Institute and SAIC called Data as Art.

"It started as a class project and became a weekend and after-hours project," Zekelman said. "We just wanted to do something interesting with our time."

Strawbies allows kids to connect magnetic, Lego-esque game pieces to control Awbie, the super adorable main character of the game, and guide him through his world to collect strawberries. Game pieces tell Awbie which way to walk, jump or run.

By physically connecting the game pieces, kids can grasp what's going on within the game better than they would just through the iPad screen.

"When you think of coding, it can seem too abstract to teach kids," Hu said. "But Strawbies brings a tangible aspect to something that's inherently digital."

When creating the game in early 2015, Hu, who grew up in China and Canada, and Zekelman, who hails from Detroit, sought the help of SAIC alum and Detroit native Eric Uchalik to design how the game would look. Uchalik, 31, created the genderless, monster-esque character of Awbie.

"We started out with the loose idea of a robot," Uchalik said. "Then we decided, 'Why robots?' And we came up with the cute, bizarre character of Awbie who loves strawberries."

> "You have one view of startups from the media, but I didn't equate that to the ridiculous amounts of work and time that goes into it. But when you like what you're doing, you don't mind working over hours."
>
> —Ariel Zekelman

The three worked day and night out of a frozen Logan Square Airbnb with a broken heater (after sprinklers burst in their own apartment) to bring their game to life. Under the direction of Michael Horn, founder of Northwestern's Tangible Interaction Design and Learning Laboratory, Strawbies came together, combining the foundations of tangible learning, programming, design and art.

"We know that for younger kids, interaction with the physical world is very important to learning," said Horn, a professor of computer science and learning sciences.

The Osmo Coding iPad accessory package is available on Osmo's website or from Apple for about $75.

Horn worked as an adviser for Hu and served as an inspiration for the game itself. Horn previously conducted a research project at the Boston Museum of Science that provided the basis for the idea of the game. The project offered museum-goers the opportunity to control a robot either through a program on a computer screen or by organizing blocks on a table. Horn's research found that the blocks were much more welcoming to children across genders and age groups.

"Strawbies takes those principles and makes coding a more collaborative and creative experience for kids," Horn said. "They're drawn in from across the room to come play."

The group began testing Strawbies in schools throughout the Chicago area, including Bennett Day School and Francis W. Parker School. Horn then introduced the Strawbies team to Osmo, the iPad gaming accessory Strawbies uses to connect the physical blocks to the game software. Osmo attaches to the top of a child's iPad and reorients the iPad's front-facing camera down toward the tabletop to recognize the order and organization of the physical blocks.

In July 2015, the three emailed the co-founders of Osmo to ask if they could use a console to program their game. By October 2015, they were demonstrating Strawbies game play for Osmo's CEO, Pramod Sharma, and CTO, Jerome Scholler. Over Christmas, the three were flown out to Silicon Valley and given job offers, nearly a year after suffering through a winter in a cramped apartment with no heat to bring their game to life.

"Now, seeing young kids pick it up and start coding within minutes and laughing ... it makes coding warm and fun," Hu said.

Seven months into their time at Osmo, Zekelman said they're still adjusting to life at a startup.

"You have one view of startups from the media, but I didn't equate that to the ridiculous amounts of work and time that goes into it," she said. "But when you like what you're doing, you don't mind working over hours."

Strawbies is now being played in over 15,000 schools across the country.

@SHELBIELBOSTEDT | SBOSTEDT@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

Strawbies co-creator Ariel Zekelman

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HOT TIP
Take the Water Taxi (**chicagowatertaxi.com**) from the Mag Mile dock to LaSalle for a view of the riverwalk from the water.

Chicago Riverwalk

DINING GUIDE

Every bar and restaurant, deciphered

By Lindsey Compton and Louisa Chu | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

With the recent openings of Frost and Tiny Hatt, the Chicago Riverwalk scene now has six solid options for food, a cold drink and boat-watching, which is vastly superior to people-watching. Use this as your guide for your next visit.

ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE FILE

PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE FILE

◀ Cyrano's Cafe & Wine Bar
233 E. Riverwalk South

Cyrano's Farm Kitchen on Wells Street is no more, but get your fix of chef Didier Durand's French cooking at this charming Riverwalk outpost. Surrounded by beautiful trees, the outside patio—modeled after Monet's Gardens in France—is a popular attraction for brunch, lunch and dinner. Daytime food is perfect picnic fare (salads, sandwiches); at night, bring a date, and dip into options like escargots, ostrich country pate and duck l'orange.

NEW Tiny Hatt
55 W. Riverwalk South

This Riverwalk newcomer is a collaboration between North Center cocktail bar Tiny Lounge and catering company Big Hatt Gourmet, which specializes in Memphis-style BBQ. Try favorites like the tri-tip sandwich with smoked tri-tip beef, pickled red onion, arugula and basil aioli on a pretzel bun ($12) paired with the Tiny Hatt agave margarita, served in a sea-salt-rimmed glass ($13). Credit and debit cards only.

▶ City Winery
11 W. Riverwalk South

Nestled next to the water, this always-crowded venue—a sister spot to the West Loop City Winery—has cheese, gelato, sorbets, Mediterranean-style dishes and, of course, wine. It's a short list, but it's decent. For half the price of most upscale restaurants, you can (almost) dine in style, complete with a river view; we say almost because most dishes are served on paper plates. You can find better eats on the Riverwalk, but the crowd here is young and fun.

PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE FILE

NEW Frost
27 W. Riverwalk South

This third Chicago-area location of an international chain founded in Tucson, Ariz., serves gelato, sorbet and floats. Order any of six changing flavors by the cup ($5-$7) or in a waffle cone ($1 extra); sea salt caramel gelato, a popular variety, arrives spiked with a long, hollow and crisp French rolled gaufrette cookie. A root beer float ($7) is made with Berghoff root beer topped with whipped cream.

PHIL VELASQUEZ/TRIBUNE FILE

◀ O'Brien's
45 E. Riverwalk South

The longtime Old Town restaurant's riverfront location offers classic tavern fare, with burger, sandwich, salad, steak and seafood options, plus a kids menu. The atmosphere is chill, servers are friendly and meals are hearty. Prices are reasonable too: Discounting pricier cuts of steak or seafood, expect to spend $9-$14 per plate.

▼ Island Party Hut
355 E. Riverwalk South

Bring a few friends and stop for colorful drinks at this outdoor tiki bar, a nonstop festival that pairs food off the grill ($8-$13) with island-themed cocktails ($12). Draft, canned and bottled beer options are available as well. Stay for reggae music and more.

HILARY HIGGINS FILE PHOTO FOR REDEYE

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horoscopes

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Cancer *June 21—July 22*
Love is in the air this week! If you're single, you must make it a priority to socialize more. There's a tremendous opportunity for you to meet someone sexy, mysterious and with the capacity to make you feel more beautiful than you have in quite some time. If you're already attached, it'll be a very sexy time indeed. Your lover will sweep you off your feet in the most heart-pounding way possible.

Leo *July 23—Aug. 22*
The best moments in your love life this week will be the private ones. You and your sweetheart might spend more time nesting together in your own little world. Even if this just means snuggling up on the couch together after work, it'll somehow turn into something more special and intimate than you could imagine. You might also be planning discreetly to move in together or purchase a home or condo.

Virgo *Aug. 23—Sept. 22*
Social interactions will have a decidedly romantic feel this week. If you're single, this will be the week to go out on a date with someone a friend feels is your perfect match. The conversations you have with anyone you meet romantically will be intense and emotionally fulfilling, so you'll know that there isn't going to be a shallow dating prospect wasting your time. If attached, you and your mate will enjoy spending time with mutual friends.

Libra *Sept. 23—Oct. 22*
You'll feel an overwhelming level of support from your lover this week as you pursue a career opportunity. You don't have to worry about your sweetheart being jealous of your success or trying to sabotage it because of his or her own insecurities. That type of drama simply won't be your reality. In fact, you can expect your sweetie to brag about you to anyone who'll listen.

Scorpio *Oct. 23—Nov. 21*
Your sex appeal is off the charts this week! You can expect you and your partner to enjoy each other's company in every way imaginable. This isn't just physical, however (although that will be part of the yumminess). In fact, there's a good chance that your bond will deepen as you explore new mental territory together.

Sagittarius *Nov. 22—Dec. 21*
This will be a perfect week to confess your most secret desires to your mate. Even if you feel that some of your fantasies are a bit taboo, your partner will not judge you for them. In fact, sharing them will allow the two of you to strengthen your bond of intimacy and trust. Or, you and your partner might be about to benefit financially from a top-secret endeavor you've been working on. Nice!

Capricorn *Dec. 22—Jan. 19*
Your relationship is on such a harmonious streak, and this week, that trend will continue. This Wednesday, it's possible that you and your mate will experience a dream-come-true event together thanks to Venus and Mars connecting happily. You might also work together on a humanitarian effort that brings you even closer. Wonderful!

Aquarius *Jan. 20—Feb. 18*
An office romance will be extra sweet this week. Perhaps you and your new love will decide it's time to make the relationship public and will announce it to your co-workers and boss. If so, you can expect congratulations and support from everyone. It'll feel wonderful to know that everyone at the office is genuinely happy for the two of you and that there won't be any unsavory gossip attached to your love life.

Pisces *Feb. 19—March 20*
This week, you and your sweetheart might share an adventure that leaves you both on cloud nine. This could be the type of experience that you've both always wanted to have, such as traveling to a new country or learning something new that requires advanced study. You might also explore your spirituality with your partner and realize that your souls are even more deeply entwined than you thought.

Aries *March 21—April 19*
You and your partner might be ready to take a major plunge. You might buy a home together, and if so, you'll get a great mortgage rate and price on your property. Or, you might already live together but have decided that it's a perfect time to renovate your living space. The money to do this will be easy to find, so don't stress. In fact, one way or another, you're likely to hear very positive news about a joint financial matter.

Taurus *April 20—May 20*
Decisions you make this week with your sweetheart will be easy. The two of you are most certainly on the same page when it comes to all of the major areas you need to discuss, particularly those involving your family and home environment. Also, if you are signing a contract with your mate this week for any reason, you can anticipate that it'll go smoothly. Compromise is effortless to achieve.

Gemini *May 21—June 20*
You and your sweetheart might have fun transforming this week into better versions of each other. This isn't because either one of you feels that the other isn't good enough—in fact, it's exactly the opposite! There's a positive air of empowerment that the two of you are breathing in, and all you want to do is uplift one another and strengthen the positive qualities. Now, you'll really be a power couple!

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movies

'The Purge: Election Year'

OF THEE I SCREAM

HOW AMERICAN POLITICS OOZES INTO HORROR FILMS

By Scott Tobias | FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

In the lead-up to "Purge night," an annual 12-hour window of government-sanctioned lawlessness, a local Washington news crew files a breathless report from the airport baggage claim. A rowdy group of young Europeans, dubbed "murder tourists," have arrived to satiate their bloodlust on the streets of America, and scores like them have become a boon to the economy, adding another perverse incentive to keep this barbaric night going year after year. Call it cash for slash.

That's just one throwaway detail in "The Purge: Election Night," the third entry in the popular movie franchise released Friday, but it says a lot about how this country sees itself—and how the world does in kind. In the year 2025, America is the hot destination for violence. The film's message is clear: We are a country associated with guns and violence—an importer-exporter, in fact—and not only that, we're also a country where some believe the key to solving our problem with guns and violence is more guns and more violence.

This is a conversation that's happening in debates, at the dinner table, in the editorial pages and among the telegenic partisans of cable news. But it's rarely a conversation that spills over into movies or TV shows, because those are the places we go to retreat from uncomfortable topics, not engage in them.

But escapist entertainment may speak to us through metaphor, like seeing the presidential race through the prism of "Game of Thrones." And the horror genre is a particularly fruitful source of such metaphors. The "Purge" franchise follows a long tradition of American movies that couch the fears and anxieties of contemporary culture in allegory or simply reflect them right back to us.

At the height of the Red Scare, there was "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," a 1956 chiller about an insidious alien plot to turn ordinary American citizens into group-thinking "pod people." As the nightly news trafficked in horrific images of the Vietnam War, young directors including Wes Craven and Tobe Hooper responded with shockingly blunt depictions of human cruelty—Craven with 1972's "The Last House on the Left," a rape-revenge thriller shot with sickening home-movie intimacy, and Hooper with 1974's "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," which follows members of the younger generation as they're literally led to the slaughter. The tone of the entire genre had shifted.

Flash-forward to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and another uptick in extreme horror films, led by two franchises, "Saw" and "Hostel," reflected a darkening mood. In the wake of the 2003 Abu Ghraib scandal, mainstream entertainment passed on dealing with the morals and efficacy of torture. But the "Saw" series, beginning in 2004, steered right into the curve. Over seven straight Halloween weekends, young audiences turned up in large numbers to watch like-aged victims wriggle under elaborate torture devices. And as post-9/11 goodwill eroded into hostility toward U.S. foreign policy overseas, 2005's "Hostel" imagined the grimmest possible fate for American backpackers in Europe.

The undisputed master of political horror, however, is George Romero, who single-handedly turned the zombie subgenre into a vehicle for editorial commentary. Starting with 1968's "Night of the Living Dead," which has been read as a counterculture allegory for the country's racial and social ills, Romero's "Dead" series accommodated a new theme with each entry: mindless consumerism (1978's "Dawn of the Dead"), the arrogance and folly of the Iraq War (2005's "Land of the Dead"), the spinning of media lies (2007's "Diary of the Dead").

The "Purge" series has been slower in opening up to provocative commentary. The latest two entries, "The Purge: Anarchy" and "The Purge: Election Year," have dabbled in government conspiracy and all-out class warfare, like a real-world updating of "The Hunger Games."

The second "Purge" suggested the annual ritual was a secret capitalist plot to winnow down the poorest and most vulnerable members, who can't afford expensive security systems. "Election Year" goes much further, folding in messages not only about income inequality but also about racial injustice, with its nasty, cartoon vision of America's future. The film makes a reference to "hands up, don't shoot," and the government is run by a white supremacist cult willing to assassinate a political challenger (Elizabeth Mitchell) in order to keep the presidency.

If she survives the night, she still needs to win Florida's electoral votes. As the 2000 election demonstrated, that state can be a tricky one.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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9	1	3	6	2	7	4	5	8
8	7	6	1	4	5	2	3	9

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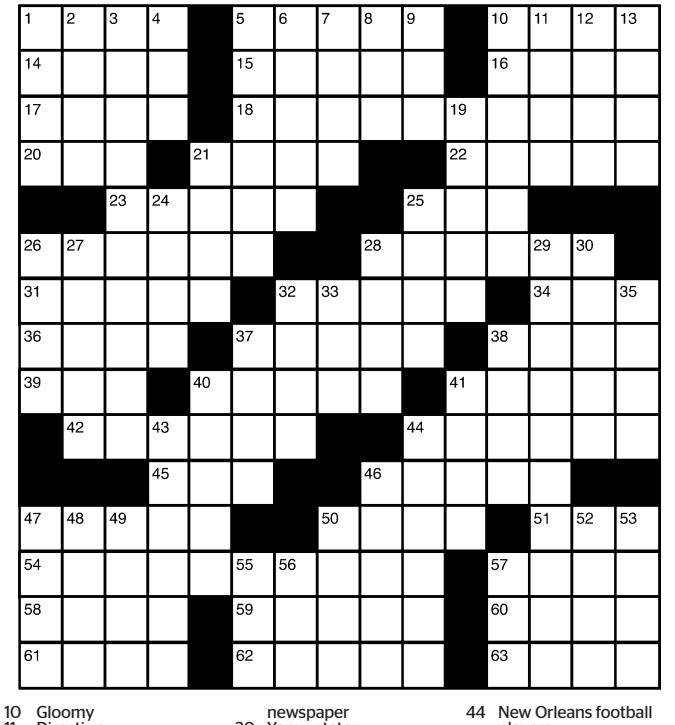
TODAY'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

- Model **Cassidy Wolf**, 22
- Singer **Adam Young**, 30
- Actor **Francois Arnaud**, 31
- DJ **Pauly D**, 36
- Actor **Gilles Lellouche**, 44
- Rapper **RZA**, 47
- Screenwriter **Jenji Kohan**, 47
- Actress **Edie Falco**, 53
- Singer **Huey Lewis**, 66



ACROSS
1 "Pygmalion" or "Macbeth"
5 Chomping _ bit; very eager
10 New York team
14 Seldom seen
15 Recovery center, for short
16 Hawaiian island
17 Related
18 Paid back
20 However
21 Rackets
22 Short letters
23 Opposite of lightweight
25 "_ Now or Never"
26 Channel-changing device
28 Most devious
31 Amphitheater
32 Know-_; smarty-pants
34 Play on words
36 Floor pads
37 Unexpected obstacles
38 Vagabond
39 Fraternity letter
40 Reddish dye
41 Pierces
42 Reverberates
44 Hot and humid
45 Diving seabird
46 Loses hair
47 Rip-offs
50 Hairdo
51 Baby dog, for short
54 Measuring utensil
57 Lunch spot
58 A single time
59 Armed robbery
60 Very excited
61 Nuisance
62 Brings to a stop
63 Not as much

DOWN
1 Say an "Our Father," e.g.
2 Erie or Titicaca
3 Mathematics
4 Japan's dollar
5 Show up
6 Very small
7 "_ Land Is Your Land"
8 Show-off
9 Diminish
10 Gloomy
11 Direction
12 "My Country, 'Tis of _"
13 Soap lather
19 Up to the time that
21 Facts & figures
24 Long periods
25 Misfortunes
26 Freeway exit
27 Clear the slate
28 Long narrative
29 Where to find scores in a newspaper
30 Yam or tater
32 Hotels
33 Light brown
35 Too inquisitive
37 Look for
38 _ on to; keep
40 Dwelling
41 _ of Mexico; Atlantic inlet
43 Shakespeare's Danish prince
44 New Orleans football players
46 Give a helpful push up
47 Street sign
48 Walking stick
49 Basics
50 Bedspring
52 Flying saucers, for short
53 Small dowels
55 "Be quiet!"
56 Pod veggie
57 Nev.'s neighbor

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THE QUOTE

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT SQUIRREL GIRL DOES OTHER THAN BE HALF SQUIRREL, BUT I COULD BE HALF SQUIRREL!"

—**Anna Kendrick**, to Net-a-Porter's The Edit, about her interest in joining a superhero franchise. Hey, we're totally fine with that, even though we have no idea who or what Squirrel Girl is or does.

THE DIGIT

$49.7M

That's about how much money Pixar's "Finding Dory" made at the domestic box office over the four-day holiday weekend, according to **deadline.com**. "The Legend of Tarzan" came in second with an estimated $45.5 million to $48 million, beating expectations—it was projected to score somewhere in the low $30 million range, Deadline reported.

INSTAGRAM

INSTAGRAM

On the road with Gaga

Get off the road, you guys, because Lady Gaga is going to be cruising it. The singer passed her road test in California, according to **people.com**. She posted on Instagram on Friday that for years she had been driving with a learner's permit and an adult present. "IM FREE," she wrote. Oh man, to be young and driving. We wonder what she's going to sing in the car, though.

Baby!

Emily Blunt and John Krasinski have welcomed their second baby! Krasinski announced Monday on Twitter that their baby daughter Violet was born two weeks ago. According to **eonline.com**, Violet joins 2-year-old Hazel. Congrats!

Apple + Tidal?

Apple is in talks with Jay Z's streaming service Tidal about possibly acquiring the company. The Wall Street Journal cited "people familiar with the matter" in reporting the news, but Tidal spokespeople are denying that meetings have taken place, according to **avclub.com**. We'll see.

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